

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CANBER 04608 170807Z

11

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SCI-06 IO-13 NASA-04 L-03 EUR-25

DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /082 W

----- 110380

R 170737Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1527

S E C R E T CANBERRA 4608

EO 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, TSPA, UN

SUBJ: RETURN OF SPACE OBJECTS TO EARTH

REF: STATE A-6343

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: TWO SPACE OBJECTS FOUND IN AUSTRALIA DURING PAST TWO YEARS HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO USG BY AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. ADOD WOULD EITHER A) LOAN OR B) GIVE THESE OBJECTS TO USG WITH ONLY PRO-VISO THAT ADOD BE INFORMED OF RESULTS OF THEIR ANALYSIS. EMBASSY REQUESTS GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO AUSTRALIAN OFFER. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY RECENTLY INFORMED BY AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT (ADOD) THAT TWO OBJECTS (DESCRIBED BELOW) HAVE BEEN RECOVERED IN AUSTRALIA DURING PAST TWO YEARS. BOTH OBJECTS ARE IN CANBERRA AND HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO USG EITHER FOR A) LOAN OR B) AS GIFT, PROVIDED ADOD IS INFORMED OF RESULTS OF ANALYSIS CARRIED OUT ON THESE OBJECTS.

3. INFORMATION ON THE TWO OBJECTS IS AS FOLLOWS:

A) NORMANTON SPHERE - LATE IN 1971 A SPHERE WAS FOUND ON RUTLAND PLAIN'S STATION NORTH OF NORMANTON, QUEENSLAND. THE APPROXIMATE COORDINATES OF THE IMPACT POSITION ARE 15 DEGREES 56' S - 141 DEGREES 49' E. DESCRIPTION: METAL SPHERE W/23 1/2" OUTSIDE DIAMETER. WALL THICKNESS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CANBER 04608 170807Z

5MM. WEIGHT 61 LBS. MADE IN TWO HALVES JOINED TOGETHER

WITH WELD. TWO METAL PROTRUSIONS OPPOSITE SIDES. SERIES OF NUMBERS OF WHICH 906807 DECIPHERABLE. (THE NUMBER 7 IS IDENTIFIABLE AS AMERICAN AND NOT EUROPEAN). OBJECT NOW PACKED IN WOODEN SHIPPING CRATE, SIZE APPROXIMATELY 15 CU. FT., WEIGHT 146 LBS.

B) MOUROUBRA DEBRIS - LATE IN JANUARY 1973 A SPACE VEHICLE COMPONENT WAS DISCOVERED ON THE SHORE OF LAKE MOORE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA (APPROXIMATELY 30DEGREES S - 118DEGREES 48' E). THE TIME OF RE-ENTRY HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED BUT THE MANAGER OF THE MOUROUBRA STATION ON WHICH THE DEBRIS WAS FOUND STATED THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN THERE EIGHT MONTHS EARLIER. HE REPORTED THAT A BRIGHT RED OR ORANGE FLARE HAD BEEN SIGHTED IN JULY 1972 AT ABOUT 60DEGREES ELEVATION AND AT ABOUT THE ABOVE COORDINATES. DESCRIPTION: METAL SPHERE W/OUTSIDE DIAMETER 19 2/2". MADE IN TWO HALVES, JOINED WITH OUTSIDE STRONG RING TO 21 2/2" DIAMETER. WEIGHT ABOUT 20 LBS. INSIDE OUTER SHELL IS ANOTHER SPHERICAL CONTAINER 17 2/2" DIAMETER. INSULATING PADS OF FIBRE BLANKETS BETWEEN TWO SPHERES. INNER SHELL HAS TWO PIPE OUTLETS AND ELECTRICAL JUNCTION BOX. INSIDE INNER SHELL IS PERFORATED SPHERICAL COPPER ASSEMBLY CONTAINING COAXIAL CAPACITOR FLUID GAUGING DEVICE AND A HEATER ASSEMBLY. OBJECT NOW PACKED IN WOODEN SHIPPING CRATE, SIZE 8 CU. FT., WEIGHT 100 LBS.

4. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED IN GUIDANCE PORTION OF REF AIR ARE (KEYED TO ITEMS 1 THROUGH 7):

- A) NO PRECISE TIMING OF IMPACT FOR EITHER OBJECT IS KNOWN. DATES OF DISCOVERIES IN AUSTRALIA ARE AS GIVEN ABOVE.
- B) EMBASSY IS NOT INFORMED WHETHER OBJECTS CAUSED ANY DAMAGE ON IMPACTING. SINCE THEY WERE BOTH DISCOVERED IN REMOTE AREAS, OUR ASSUMPTION IS THAT NO DAMAGE EITHER TO PERSON OR PROPERTY OCCURRED AT IMPACT.
- C) AND D) DESCRIPTIONS GIVEN ABOVE.
- E) NO PHOTOGRAPHS OF OBJECTS ARE AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, EMBASSY COULD OBTAIN OR MAKE PHOTOS OF THEM IF REQUESTED.
- F) BOTH OBJECTS HAVE BEEN EXAMINED BY THE NASA REPRESENTATIVE IN AUSTRALIA AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE USSR

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CANBER 04608 170807Z

EMBASSY HERE. NASA REP SAYS HE CONVINCED THEY ARE U.S. ORIGIN BUT IS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY VEHICLE OF WHICH THEY FORMED PART.

G) THERE WAS NO LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE RELATING TO DISCOVERY OF THESE TWO ITEMS AS FAR AS EMBASSY IS AWARE.

5. REQUEST GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO ADOD.
GREEN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER04608
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2 GREEN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730832/aaaaaxgd.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE A-6343
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Oct-2001 by eisnerah>; APPROVED <12-Dec-2001 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RETURN OF SPACE OBJECTS TO EARTH
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, TSPA, AS, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005